



Attorney Docket 115699-23

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#15/Amend E
(Rule 32 NE)
JA
11-19-02

Date of Notice of Allowance: 1 July 2002

Serial No.: 09/705,056

Application of: Forbes
Filed: 2 November 2000
Title: DROPPED DECK CENTER BEAM RAIL ROAD CAR
Art Unit: 3617
Examiner: Jules, Frantz F

AMENDMENT AFTER NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, 37 CFR § 1.312

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.312, kindly amend the subject application as follows in view of the comments set out herebelow.

Match and Return

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification to read as follows (marked-up version appended at end):

Page 3, first full paragraph:

It is also desirable that the bundles stack squarely one upon another. Although it is possible to use wooden battens at the top end of the center beam web, this will tend to cause the top bundle to sit outwardly of its neighbours. It has been observed that a thin wooden batten, of 3/4" thickness may tend to bow inwardly between adjacent posts, and may not spread the wear load as much as may be desired. A 1 - 1/2 inch thick wooden batten may have a greater ability to resist this bowing effect. However, the space available for employing a batten may tend to be limited by the design envelope of the car. Inasmuch as it is advantageous to load the car as fully as possible, and given that the design of the car may usually reflect a desire to maximize loading within the permissible operational envelope according to the applicable AAR standard, the use of a relatively thick wooden batten may tend to push the outside edge of the top bundle outside the permissible operational envelope. Wooden battens may also be prone to rotting if subject to excessive exposure to moisture, or may be consumable wear items that may require relatively frequent periodic replacement.